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China, People's Republic of

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Special Nutritional Food Labeling Standard

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Report Highlights:

This is an UNOFFICIAL English translation of the People's Republic of China *Special Nutritional Food Labeling Standard* and should be used as a guide only.

Exporters carefully discuss regulations and their application with Chinese importers to ensure that their interpretation of the regulations is accurate.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
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This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Beijing, People's Republic of China for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Summary

This standard refers to and adopts (CAC) CODEX STAN 146-1985 "Standard For the Labeling and Notation of Pre-packaged Special Purpose Foods" announced by the FAO/WHO Food Law Committee. This Standard governs all labeling requirements for foods and materials that are for domestic sale and directed at specific consumers; for example, infants, elderly, etc. This standard is proposed by China National Food Industry Standardization Technology Committee. This committee is formed by several ministries and responsible to the State Council.

Special Nutritional Food Labeling Standard (GB 13432-92)

Chapter One: Main Contents and Application

This standard stipulates the basic principle and contents related to the labeling of special nutritional food. This standard applies to the labeling of packaged infant and baby foods, enriched nutritional foods, adjusted nutritional foods (such as low-saccharine, low-sodium and low glutamic protein foods) for sale.

Chapter Two: Referenced Standard

GB 7718 General Standard for Food Labeling

Chapter Three: Terminology

3.1 Special nutritional foods

Foods that contain modified organic nutrients and designed or altered nutritional value percentages for the nutritional needs of certain special consumer groups.

3.2 Nutrients

Substances that are the composition of food used to maintain the normal metabolism of the human body. These nutrients fall into 5 main categories: proteins, fats, carbohydrates, minerals and vitamins.

3.3 Other terminology

Same as Article 3.1 to Article 3.8 in GB 7718.

Chapter Four: Basic Principles

Special nutritional food labeling shall conform to the following principles; in addition to complying with provisions in Chapter Four of GB 7718:

- 4.1 The caloric value and nutritional contents that a product is guaranteed to have, within the shelf life span, shall be indicated.
- 4.2 The following descriptions shall not be used on labels:
 - 4.2.1 Having "preventive" or "curing" effects for a certain disease.
 - 4.2.2 Having "rejuvenating effects", "prolonging life expectancy", "changing white hair to black", "stimulating new dental growth", "combating or curing cancer" and other similar used phrases.
 - 4.2.3 Having "secret ancestral prescription", "tonic food", "health and fitness food", "royal food" and other similar used phrases.
 - 4.2.4 Attaching names of medicines before or after the food name, or employing illustrations and names of medicines to imply curing, health-enhancing, or other similar effects are contained in the food.

Chapter Five: Required Content Markings

- 5.1 Name of food
 - 5.1.1 Food name shall be marked per stipulations in Article 5.1 of GB 7718.
 - 5.1.2 Foods, that conform to the stipulations of Article 3.1, shall mark the potential consumers envisioned for the particular food.
- 5.2 Ingredients
 - 5.2.1 The ingredient table, as stipulated in Article 5.2 of GB 7718, shall be marked.
 - 5.2.2 The respective percentages (qualitative or volumetric percentages) of one or several kinds of featured raw materials or ingredients shall be marked.

- 5.3 Calories

Caloric value of particular special nutritional foods, per Annex A (supplement), shall be marked.

- 5.4 Nutrients

Protein, fat, carbohydrate, vitamin, mineral and trace element contents of particular special nutritional foods, per Annex A (supplement), shall be marked.

- 5.5 Net content and contents of solids

Net contents and contents of solids, per stipulations contained in Article 5.3 of GB 7718, shall be marked.

5.6 Name and address of manufacturer and distributor

Name, address, and telephone number, per stipulations contained in Article 5.4 of GB 7718, shall be marked.

5.7 Batch number

Production or sub-packaging batch number, according to stipulations contained in Article 7.1 of GB 7718, shall be marked.

5.8 Date mark and storage instructions

Production date, shelf life, storage date and instructions, per stipulations contained in Article 5.5 of GB 7718, shall be marked; and, when necessary, the following contents shall be marked:

5.8.1 If the nutritional value and/or quality of the special nutritional food depend upon particular storage conditions or if the pack remain sealed, it is mandatory to mark the proper storage condition on the label.

5.8.2 If the special nutritional food cannot be stored in its original package after the seal is broken, it is mandatory to remind consumers of this condition.

5.9 Serving method

Mark the label according to the stipulations contained in Article 7.2 of GB 7718.

5.10 Quality grades

Mark the quality grades according to the stipulations contained in Article 5.6 of GB 7718.

5.11 Product standard code

It is required to mark the codes and/or serial numbers of the state standard, industry standard, or enterprise standard that the products should be regulated accordingly.

Chapter Six: Requirements

It is mandatory to comply with the stipulations contained in Chapter Eight of GB 7718.

Note: When the maximum surface area of a container is smaller than 10 cm², requirements 5.9, 5.10, and 5.11 may be exempted.

Annex A: Labeling Calories and Food Nutrients (Supplement)

This Annex applies to the labeling procedures relevant to calories and nutrients in all foodstuffs.

A1 Calories

A1.1 Calories contained in every 100g or 100ml of special nutritional foods and the calories contained in a recommended portion shall be labeled.

A1.2 Calories are expressed in kJ; or in kJ (equivalent to xx kcal).

A1.3 Calorie calculations

Carbohydrates 17 kJ/g or 17 kJ/g (equaling 4 kcal/g)

Protein 17 kJ/g or 17 kJ/g (equaling 4 kcal/g)

Fat 38 kJ/g or 38 kJ/g (equaling 9 kcal/g)

Alcohol 29 kJ/g or 29 kJ/g (equaling 7 kcal/g)

Organic acid 13 kJ/g or 13 kJ/g (equaling 3 kcal/g)

A2 Nutrients

A2.1.1 Protein (g) contained in every 100g or 100ml of special nutritional food and the protein (g) contained in a recommended portion shall be labeled.

A2.1.2 The protein content is calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{<Protein content>} = \text{<total nitrogen obtained from Kessler's nitrogen determination method>} \times 6.25$$

Note: 6.25 is the general conversion coefficient. If an alternative conversion coefficient is stipulated in the food product standard or analysis, the conversion shall be conducted according to the prescribed coefficient.

A2.2 Fat

Fat content (g) in every 100g or 100 ml of special nutritional food and the fat content (g) contained in a recommended portion shall be labeled.

A2.3 Carbohydrates

A2.3.1 Carbohydrates content (g) in every 100g or 100ml of special nutritional food and the carbohydrates content (g) contained in a recommended portion shall be labeled.

A2.3.2 If it is required to label the type of the carbohydrate, the labeling can be done in the following formula:

For every 100g or 100ml that contains xx grams carbohydrates, of the xx grams carbohydrate xx grams are saccharine

A2.4 Vitamins

Vitamin content (mg, micrograms or international unit) of special nutritional food, and the corresponding vitamin content (mg, micrograms, or international unit) contained in a recommended portion shall be labeled.

Example: Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin C are expressed in mg or micrograms; whereas Vitamin A, Vitamin D are expressed in international units.

A2.5 Minerals and Trace Elements

Content of minerals and trace elements (mg or micrograms) in every 100g or 100ml of special nutritional food, and the mineral and trace elements contents (mg or micrograms) contained in a recommended portion shall be labeled.

ADDITIONAL NOTES: This standard is proposed by China National Food Industry Standardization Technology Committee. This standard is drafted by the drafting group composed jointly by the Ministry of Light Industry, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture, State Commodity Inspection Bureau, Ministry of Public Health and China Standardization and Information Classification and Coding Institute.

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